



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

*Note on the Value of the Gastropod Apex as a Means of Classification.*

—DR. BURNETT SMITH remarked that studies recently made among Tertiary and recent Gastropods tend to show that the importance of the “protoconch” as a means of generic discrimination has been greatly exaggerated. An examination of the species of *Pyrula* with rounded whorls (*P. ficus*, *P. papyratia*, *P. mississippiensis*, *P. condita*, etc.) has shown that with slight exceptions the chief specific modifications have been introduced not into the later adult whorls, but into the early whorls. On tracing the genus back in time it is seen that on the whole the apices become smaller and the smooth whorls are more numerous. Nevertheless we find that at the present day both the small (generalized) and the large (specialized) apices are found. The Panamic form (*P. decussata*) is furnished with the primitive type of apex, while the Gulf and Caribbean representative (*P. papyratia*) has the large specialized apex with but one smooth whorl.

The Texas and Louisiana Lower Claiborne races of the species commonly known as *Volutilithes petrosus* constitute still another monophyletic assemblage, though in this case a more restricted one. Here it has been observed that again the chief modifications are exhibited by the apical smooth stage, while the later ontogenetic stages remain relatively unchanged.

JOHN W. HARSHBERGER, PH.D., spoke of the influence of chemicals on the development of the bud. (No abstract.)

---

MAY 21.

ARTHUR ERWIN BROWN, D.SC., Vice-President, in the Chair.

Thirty-eight persons present.

The Publication Committee reported that papers under the following titles had been presented for publication:

“The Polycystid Gregarines of the United States” (third contribution), by Howard Crawley (May 13).

“A New Species of *Athleta* and a Note on the Morphology of *Athleta petrosa*,” by Burnett Smith (May 15).

“New and Little-known Whelks from Northern Japan and the Kuril Islands,” by H. A. Pilsbry (May 16).

“The Distribution of the North American Gordiacea, with Description of a New Species,” by Thomas H. Montgomery Jr. (May 21).

P. Chalmers Mitchell, of London, was elected a correspondent.

The following were ordered to be printed: